

IX.—Notes on Fossorial Hymenoptera.—XXXIX. New
 Sphecoidea collected in Palestine by Major E. E. Austen.
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Psammæcius austeni, sp. n.

♂. Niger; scapo subtus flavo; segmentis abdominalibus tribus basalibus, pedibusque, coxis exceptis, rufo-ferrugineis; flagello articulis 9–10 subtus ferrugineis, excavatis; articulo apicali subtus et apice brunneo-ferrugineo, fortiter curvato; alis hyalinis, cellula radiali, cellulisque cubitalibus secunda tertiaque fortiter infuscatis; venis nigris, stigmatibus flavo.

♀. Mari simillima, flagello nigro, articulis haud excavatis; cellula cubitali tertia hyalina.

Long., ♂ 9 mm., ♀ 10 mm.

♂. Eyes strongly convergent towards the clypeus, posterior ocelli a little further from each other than from the eyes; vertex and front strongly and closely punctured. Clypeus broadly and roundly deflexed at the apex, the deflexed portion smooth and shining, the basal portion closely punctured. Thorax and sides of the median segment closely and coarsely punctured; the triangular basal area of the median segment coarsely longitudinally striate-reticulate. First and second tergites strongly but not very closely punctured, less closely than in *P. punctulatus*, Lind., and less coarsely than in *P. luxuriosus*, Rad.; the apical tergites more closely and finely punctured; sternites shining, very sparsely punctured. At the apex of the three basal tergites the red colouring shows a tendency to change to yellow, forming an obscure, narrow, reddish-yellow apical fascia. Neuration as in *P. punctulatus*.

♀. Pygidial area longitudinally striate; fore metatarsus with five long spatulate whitish spines. Flagellum simple, the apical joints not excavated or curved.

Hab. Jerisheh, N.E. of Jaffa; 1 ♂, May 1–8, 1918; 1 ♀, April 29, 1918.

Very different in colour to *punctulatus* and *luxuriosus*; the antennæ are also stouter and the pulvilli larger than in either of those species. I think *Psammæcius*, Lep., is sufficiently distinct to be given generic rank, though Handlirsch sinks it under *Gorytes*. The name *Gorytes* certainly cannot stand, and must be replaced for the genus in the widest sense either by *Ceropales*, Latr., or *Arpactus*, Jur.

Palarus hastatifrons, sp. n.

♂. Niger; abdomine segmentis tribus basalibus, pedibus intermedii posticisque, femoribusque anticis infra fulvis; clypeo, mandibulis, apice excepto, orbitis internis usque ad antennarum basin, macula frontali, longitudinali, hastiformi, mesonoto macula parva angulis anticis, tegulis tibiisque tarsisque anticis flavis; flagello supra sordide flavo; alis hyalinis, leviter infuscatis, venis testaceis; ano tridentato.

♀. Mari simillima; abdomine fere omnino fulvo.

Long., ♂ 8 mm., ♀ 11 mm.

♂. Clypeus rounded at the apex, shining, with sparse and minute punctures; front opaque, coriaceous, clothed with very delicate silver pubescence. Eyes separated on the vertex by a distance slightly exceeding the length of the second joint of the flagellum; posterior ocelli somewhat elongate, oblique and almost touching the eyes. Mandibles not excised on their outer margin. Second joint of the flagellum distinctly longer than the third, twice as long as the first and nearly twice as long as its apical breadth, the flagellar joints not arcuate beneath. Thorax shining, rather sparsely but very deeply punctured; median segment strongly obliquely striated, broadly concave in the middle, the sides of the segment finely and closely obliquely striated, the posterior slope finely rugulose, with a raised V-shaped median area. Abdomen rather sparsely punctured; first tergite deeply and widely emarginate anteriorly; second sternite gradually raised into an acute transverse carina at the apex. Seventh tergite tridentate at the apex, the middle spine the longest. Second cubital cell petiolate, the petiole very short; third cubital cell half as long again on the radius as on the cubitus; first recurrent nervure received close to the base of the second cubital cell, second just beyond three-quarters from the base.

♀. Eyes separated on the vertex by a distance only equal to the length of the first joint of the flagellum, nearer to each other than in the male; second joint of flagellum at least twice as long as its apical breadth. Sixth tergite elongate, pointed at the apex, with sparse elongate punctures. Basal joint of fore tarsus with six spines.

Hab. Khan Yunus, 12 miles S.W. of Gaza, June 1917; 1 ♂, 4 ♀ ♀.

This belongs to the group of *P. lepidus*, Klug; but, in addition to the strong colour-differences, the abdomen is much more sparsely and more strongly punctured; the eyes in both sexes are nearer together on the vertex, and the carina of the second sternite is acute, not broad as in ♂ *lepidus*.